

BE ISSUED IF THERE IS A FINDING THAT THE PROPOSED MOTORIZED USE WILL PROVIDE A CLEAR PUBLIC BENEFIT.] See Map 12 in original plan for boundaries.

- b. **Footbridge.** Replace the old footbridge over the Little Susitna with a safe one. The bridge may be built to also accommodate cattle access to rangeland west of the river.
- c. **Archangel Bridge.** DOT/PF has found the bridge over Archangel Creek on the Gold Mint Road to be unsafe for motorized use. Necessary repairs should be done to allow continued foot, horse, and cattle access, but it will be closed to vehicle use.
- d. **Public Use Cabin.** The existing cabin on Mint Glacier should be converted to a public use cabin. Agreements with recreational groups may be negotiated for its maintenance and provisions made for reserved use by the recreational group at certain times of the year.
- e. **Trails/Routes.** The following are routes which may be identified on a map and/or brushed out:
  - . Upper Little Susitna Trail, 8 miles (13 km)
  - . Mother Lode Lodge to Arkose Ridge, (3 km)
  - . Lonesome Mine/Arkose Ridge, 3 miles (5 km)
  - . Moose Creek overlook, 3 miles (5 km)
- e. **Additions to the Hatcher Pass Public Use Area.** The valley floor in Section 3 and Mint Glacier are proposed for inclusion in the legislatively-designated Hatcher Pass Public Use Area, due to high public recreation and fisheries values. This will provide the same protection and management status for the headwaters of the Little Susitna River as for the rest of the river within the management unit (except that Mint Glacier will remain open to mineral entry).

## E. GUIDELINES

### 1. GRAZING

- a. **Vegetation Studies.** The existing grazing lease shall be used to establish baseline vegetation studies for range trend analysis, utilization trends, livestock forage preference, and other grazing related issues.
- b. **Lease Area Reduction.** Leasing should be continued; however, the lease area shall be reduced to the best grass producing area as identified by Soil Conservation Service (see Unit B on Map 6 on page 197 of original plan) upon expiration of the existing lease or prior to that time by concurrence of the lessee.
- c. **Recovery of Resource.** The area at the confluence of Archangel Creek and Little Susitna River will be fenced off to allow recovery and protection of this sensitive area.

Grazing will be excluded from this site due to fisheries and recreational values which are negatively impacted by livestock-induced bank erosion.

- d. **Archangel Creek Limits.** Establish upper limit of grazing on Archangel Creek. Fence to contain the herd.
- e. **Lone Tree Creek Limits.** Establish upper limit of grazing on Little Susitna River by fence near mouth of Lone Tree Creek.
- f. **Bridge.** Bridge the Little Susitna for livestock and recreation crossing near Lonesome Mine Road.
- g. **Guidelines.** Guidelines from the management plan will be incorporated into the existing grazing lease upon renewal or by concurrence of the lessee prior to lease expiration.
- i. **Compatibility with Recreation:** Herd management and fencing techniques should be made compatible with recreational uses of the area (to the extent feasible and possible). Minimize grazing/recreation conflicts through stipulations in any new grazing authorizations in the Little Susitna Valley when the existing grazing lease expires. Provisions to mitigate conflicts with recreational users must be part of any grazing plan and must be approved by the Division of Land and Water Management in consultation with the Division of Parks and the Division of Agriculture.

## 2. ACCESS

- a. **Trail.** Access development will be limited to trails.
- b. **Mining Access Roads.** If a new access road is required for mining, the road will not be open to general motorized public use.

## 3. RECREATION

- a. **Non-Motorized Special Use Area.** The portion of this subunit within the Hatcher Pass Public Use Area and its proposed additions will be closed to the use of motorized vehicles year round, including aircraft landings, except by permit. The intent is to allow access by motorized vehicle for commercial mining. Permits will be issued for the use of motorized vehicles to provide access to active mining claims in order to carry out the mining operations authorized by a Miscellaneous Land Use Permit or an approved plan of operations; and for aircraft access for mineral prospecting. No permit is required for emergency rescue.

b. **Recreation Opportunity Spectrum**

(1) **Setting.** The intended recreational setting described in Part "a" is for the purpose of guidance to land managers who must adjudicate land use requests. It is not intended to be a hard and fast set of rules.

- (a) **Physical Setting:** Unmodified natural environment
- (b) **Social Setting:** Low interaction between users
- (c) **Managerial Setting:** Minimum of site controls near entry point, none evident after entry except possible brushed trails or information signs
- (d) **Access and Mode of Travel:** non-motorized and cross-country foot or ski travel
- (e) **Vegetative Alterations and Duration of Impacts:** Minor loss of vegetation in travel routes, most impacts recover on an annual basis
- (f) **Type of Experience:** Very high probability of experiencing solitude, freedom, closeness to nature, self reliance, challenge, and risk

(2) **Facilities.** The purpose of this section is to describe the intended level of recreational facility development. Where no facilities are proposed, this does not mean it is a prohibited use.

- (a) **Public Facilities:** None planned
- (b) **Camp Sites:** None planned
- (c) **Picnic Sites:** None planned
- (d) **Water Supply:** None planned
- (e) **Sanitation:** None planned
- (f) **Signs:** Non-motorized and safety information signs only
- (g) **Water Crossings:** Foot bridges over Archangel Creek and Little Susitna River
- (h) **Interpretative:** Interpretation by self-discovery

4. **GUIDELINES FOR APPROPRIATE COMMERCIAL OR OTHER PRIVATE USES TO BE AUTHORIZED BY LEASE OR PERMIT:**

- a. **Commercial Uses and Other Private Uses:** None by lease. Generally permitted activities will not be affected. Other permit applications will be considered on a case-by-case basis if they are compatible with management intent and guidelines.
- b. **Stipulations on Private Uses:** They must provide a clear public benefit and not negatively impact the wilderness-type setting described in Part "a" and "b".

5. **MATERIAL SITES** (See Map Gravel/Material Sites Map on page 49 of original plan)

**Site #6.** This site should only be developed if Sites 10 or 11 prove inadequate as a source of material supply. After material extraction, the low lying area adjacent to the Little Susitna River should be trenched and contoured into side channels and ponds for fish spawning and rearing areas. If this pit is developed, a bridge crossing over the Little Susitna River would be required. This bridge could also serve as access for grazing and recreation. Rehabilitation to a natural appearance and for revegetation to grass and/or moose browse has a high priority in this location.

**Sites #7 & #8.** These sites should only be developed if and when road access is needed for mineral development in the upper Little Susitna Valley. Rehabilitation should include fisheries enhancement based on consultation with ADF&G.

6. **HELISKIING**

See Recreation Guideline 14d in Chapter Three (page 92 of this document) regarding the possibility of heliskiing on the west end of Arkose Ridge.